

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 17, 2006 has been received and carefully considered. In response, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowability of Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 21, 31, 41, 42, 44, 52, 54 and 55. These claims were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejected base claims have been amended to overcome the rejection which will be discussed in greater detail below. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 6, 9, 10, 13-20, 22-30, 32-40, 43, 45-51 and 53, as amended, also patentably distinguish from the cited references and are allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 10, 47 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of the previous claim. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 10, 47 and 48, as amended, are in proper dependent form. In this respect, these claims further limit the controller wherein the controller is configured such that the first and second regeneration cycles of the filter system are unequal in duration. Applicants respectfully submit that this recited limitation further limits the claims in which these claims are dependent from.

Claims 1, 6, 9, 10 and 13-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dow - 3,109,722. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are not anticipated by Dow. As the Examiner knows, for a publication to anticipate under §102, "the reference must teach every aspect of the claimed invention either explicitly or impliedly." *TMEP 706.02(IV)*. If any feature is not taught directly, the feature must be "inherently present." *Id.*

Claim 1 is not anticipated by Dow in that it recites a regenerable filter system that allows a first filtering unit to be regenerated independent of a second filtering unit. Dow fails to disclose such a system. More particularly, claim 1 recites a first filtering unit in the flow path including a first and second regenerable filter bed for removing a first contaminant. Claim 1 further recites a first valve located between the inlet of this system and the first and second filter beds, to selectively direct the stream of fluid through either one of the first and the second filter beds. Claim 1 further recites a second filtering unit between the first filtering unit and the outlet, wherein the filtering system includes a second

valve between the first filtering unit and the third and fourth filter beds of the second filter unit. The second valve directs the stream of fluid through either one of the third and fourth filter beds, independent of the first valve. Dow fails to disclose a filtering arrangement that allows independent flow between the filter beds. In fact, Dow's system is incapable of this independent operation.

With reference to the specification and drawings of Dow, disclosed is a filtering system that must function in series. In this respect, Dow discloses a first filtering unit including first adsorption tower A and second adsorption tower A-1. The second filtering unit includes a first adsorption tower B and a second adsorption tower B-1. Line 15 of Fig. 1 shows that adsorption tower A is connected in series with adsorption tower B. Similarly, adsorption tower A-1 is connected in series with adsorption tower B-1, based on line 17. *Also, see Column 3, lines 26-27 and 39-40.* Dow fails to disclose a system that includes the recited second valve arrangement located between the first filtering unit and the third and fourth filter beds that allow the stream of fluid to be directed through either one of the third and fourth filter beds. As a result, the first filter unit is incapable of operation independent of the second filtering unit. Flow through filter A must pass through filter B or the flow stops and flow through filter A-1 must pass through filter B-1 or the flow stops. Valves 16 and 18 are not capable of redirecting the fluid flow between the inlet and the outlet. Accordingly, Dow fails to anticipate claim 1 thereby reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 9, 10 and 13-20 are dependent from independent claim 1 and are not anticipated by Dow for at least the same reasons.

Claims 22-30, 32-40 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dow. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22-30, 32-40 and 43 are also not anticipated by Dow. In this respect, claim 22 recites a method of removing at least a first and a second contaminant from a stream of fluid which includes the step of regenerating one of the third and fourth filter beds of the second filtering unit independent of the step of regenerating one of the first and second filter beds. As is stated above, Dow discloses filter beds that are connected in series to one another wherein the first filter units A and A1 are not capable of being regenerated independent of filter beds B and B1. While the regeneration fluid supplied to the filter beds can be separate, operation of the two

filtering units cannot function independently. In this respect, if adsorption tower A is off line from the fluid flow, then filter B must be off line from the fluid flow. Dow's filtering system is not capable of transferring fluid in the fluid stream from adsorption tower A-1 to filter B and/or from adsorption tower A to adsorption tower B-1 which is necessary for independent regeneration. Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that Dow fails to anticipate claim 22. Reconsideration is, thus, respectfully requested.

Claims 23-30, 32-40 and 43 are dependent from independent claim 22 and are not anticipated by Dow for at least the same reasons.

Claims 45-51 and 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Dow. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 45 is not anticipated by Dow in that it recites a regenerable filter system including a first and a second filtering unit both in a first flow path, wherein the system further includes a second flow path along which a stream of regeneration fluid flows between a regeneration fluid inlet and outlet. Claim 45 further recites a controller for selectively directing the process of fluid through the first flow path and the regeneration fluid through the second flow path wherein the regeneration cycle of the first filter unit is independent of the regeneration cycle of the second filter unit. As is stated above, the system shown in Dow is incapable of independent regeneration in that the first filtering units are connected in series with the second unit wherein if the flow is shut down in one of the adsorption towers, it is not capable of flowing through the corresponding second tower. As a result, while separate regeneration fluid can be directed to each of the adsorption towers, they cannot work independently of one another, in view of the series connection between the first and the second filtering units. Therefore, independent regeneration cycles are impossible. Accordingly, claim 45 is not anticipated by Dow and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 46-51 and 53 are dependent from independent claim 45 and are not anticipated by Dow for at least the same reasons.

Again, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowability of claims 2-5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 21, 31, 41, 42, 44 and 52-55. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of the base claims has been addressed by this amendment whereby these claims are considered to be in allowable form, even in their dependent form. Again, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. With respect to the statements concerning the

allowability of these claims, applicants respectfully submit that these claims patentably distinguish from the prior art for at least the reasons set forth in the above-identified Office Action.

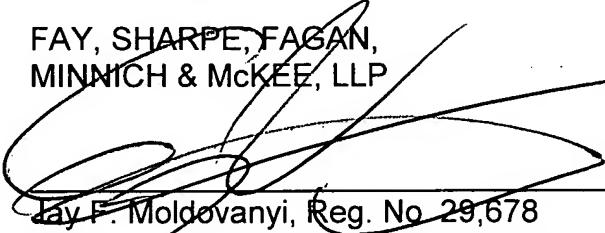
Applicants respectfully submit that each issue raised in the above-identified Office action have been addressed by this amendment. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

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